

- 63 ~~100~~ 101. A computer system as recited in claim ~~100~~¹² which further includes means for reporting to bidders information relating to the operation of the first and second determination means.
- 64 ~~101~~ 102. A computer system as recited in claim ~~101~~¹³ wherein said means for reporting also includes means for reporting to bidders that the auction has terminated.
- 65 ~~102~~ 103. A computer system as recited in claim ~~93~~⁵⁶ wherein the first and second determining means take account of prices and numbers of available objects.
- 66 ~~103~~ 104. A computer system as recited in claim ~~93~~⁵⁶ wherein the first and second input means receive bids which comprise quantities of objects.
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 ~~104~~ 105. A computer system as recited in claim ~~103~~⁶⁵ wherein the first and second input means receive bids which comprise quantities of objects.
- 68 ~~105~~ 106. A computer system as recited in claim ~~105~~⁶⁷ wherein said first and second determining means includes an adder operating on quantities from bids from all but one bidder to produce a first sum and a comparator for comparing the first sum with a number of available objects.
- 69 ~~106~~ 107. A computer system as recited in claim ~~106~~⁶⁸ wherein the first and second determining means also includes assigning means for assigning to the one bidder a number of objects equal to a difference between said number of available objects and said first sum.
- 79 ~~107~~ 108. A computer system as recited in claim ~~107~~⁶⁹ wherein the determining means assigns objects at a most recent price.

REMARKS

This supplemental Preliminary Amendment is filed to round out the protection afforded by the application and to improve the readability of the specification. It should be apparent that neither the new claims nor the amendment to the specification introduces new matter.

Claim 77 (the new independent method claim) is directed at determining, prior to the termination of an auction, whether or not there is an object which, based on the bids, is desired by only one bidder. The auction disclosed by the applicant is novel in that, if any such object is identified, it can be assigned to that bidder. Claim 77 requires at least four steps in the auction including:

- a. Inputting bids from participating bidders;

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

May 11, 2000

Page 6

- b. Making the determination just discussed; and regardless of whether or not any object is assigned, a further;
- c. Inputting subsequent to a prior determining step, bids from participating bidder and at least a further;
- d. Determining step.

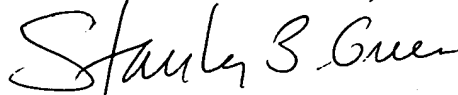
Applicant submits that claim 77 patentably defines over the art cited in this or any parent application.

Claims 78-92 depend from claim 77. Claims 93-108 are in apparatus form and are believed patentable along similar lines.

Applicant is requesting the addition of a page numbered "33" to this application, as filed. Two copies of the page are attached, one may be physically inserted into the application file for the examiner's convenience. The page contains a concluding portion of claim 42 and the initial line of claim 43. The omission of this page from this application as filed was discovered during the preparation of this supplemental preliminary amendment. Inasmuch as this application is a continuation of parent application 08/582,901 and since the page "33" is included in the parent application, this addition of page "33" does not represent new matter.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted
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